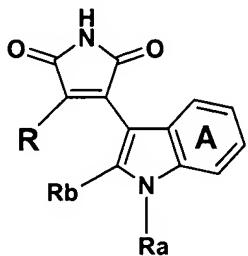


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

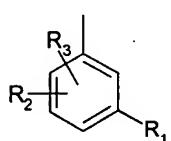
1. (previously presented) A compound of formula I



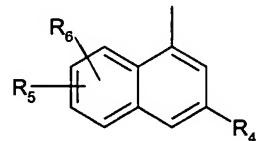
wherein

R_a is H; C_{1-4} alkyl; or C_{1-4} alkyl substituted by OH, NH_2 , NHC_{1-4} alkyl or R_b is H; or C_{1-4} alkyl;

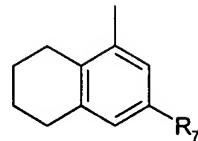
R is a radical of formula (a), (b), (c), (e) or (f)



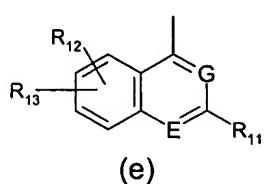
(a)



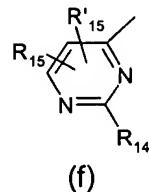
(b)



(c)



(e)



(f)

wherein

each of R_1 , R_4 , R_7 , R_{11} and R_{14} is OH; SH; a heterocyclic residue; $NR_{16}R_{17}$ wherein each of R_{16} and R_{17} , independently, is H or C_{1-4} alkyl or R_{16} and R_{17} form together with

the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue; or a radical of formula α



wherein X is a direct bond, O, S or NR₁₈ wherein R₁₈ is H or C₁₋₄alkyl, R_c is C₁₋₄alkylene or C₁₋₄alkylene wherein one CH₂ is replaced by CR_xR_y wherein one of R_x and R_y is H and the other is CH₃, each of R_x and R_y is CH₃ or R_x and R_y form together -CH₂-CH₂-, and

Y is bound to the terminal carbon atom and is selected from OH, a heterocyclic residue and -NR₁₉R₂₀ wherein each of R₁₉ and R₂₀ independently is H, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl or C₁₋₄alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, or R₁₉ and R₂₀ form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue;

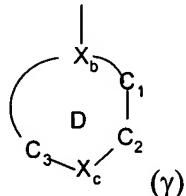
each of R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆, R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₅ and R'₁₅, independently, is H, halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, CF₃, OH, SH, NH₂, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkylthio, NHC₁₋₄alkyl, N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂ or CN;

E is -N= and G is -CH=; and

ring A is optionally substituted,
or a salt thereof.

2. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the heterocyclic residue as R₁, R₄, R₇, R₁₁, R₁₄ or Y or formed, respectively, by NR₁₆R₁₇ or NR₁₉R₂₀, is a three to eight membered saturated, unsaturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring comprising 1 or 2 heteroatoms, and optionally substituted on one or more ring carbon atoms and/or on a ring nitrogen atom when present.

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein the heterocyclic residue as R_1 , R_4 , R_7 , R_{11} , R_{14} or Y or formed, respectively, by $NR_{16}R_{17}$ or $NR_{19}R_{20}$, is a residue of formula (γ)



wherein

the ring D is a 5, 6 or 7 membered saturated, unsaturated or aromatic ring;

X_b is $-N-$, $-C=$ or $-CH-$;

X_c is $-N=$, $-NR_f$, $-CR_f'$ or $-CHR_f'$ - wherein R_f is a substituent for a ring nitrogen atom and is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl; acyl; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl; phenyl; phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl; a heterocyclic group; and a residue of formula β



wherein R_{21} is C_{1-4} alkylene or C_{2-4} alkylene interrupted by O and Y' is OH, NH_2 , $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl) or $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$; and R_f' is a substituent for a ring carbon atom and is selected

from C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl optionally further substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;



wherein p is 1, 2 or 3; CF_3 ; halogen; OH; NH_2 ; $-CH_2-NH_2$; $-CH_2-OH$; piperidin-1-yl; and pyrrolidinyl;

the bond between C_1 and C_2 is either saturated or unsaturated;

each of C_1 and C_2 , independently, is a carbon atom which is optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected among those indicated above for a ring carbon atom; and

the line between C_3 and X_b and between C_1 and X_b , respectively, represents the number of carbon atoms as required to obtain a 5, 6 or 7 membered ring D.

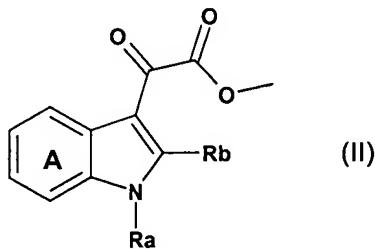
4. (original) A compound according to claim 3, wherein D is a piperazinyl ring optionally C- and/or N-substituted as specified in claim 3.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R is a radical of formula (e) or (f).

6. (canceled)

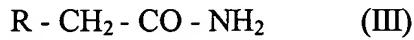
7. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 which process comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula II



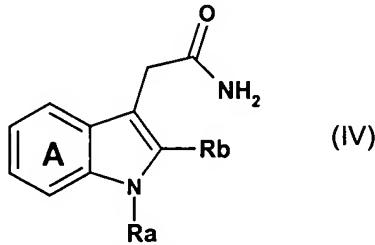
wherein R_a, R_b and ring A are as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula III



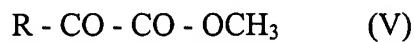
wherein R is as defined in claim 1,

b) reacting a compound of formula IV



wherein R_a, R_b and ring A are as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula V



wherein R is as defined in claim 1; or

c) converting in a compound of formula I a substituent R₁, R₄, R₇, R₈, R₁₁ or R₁₄ into another substituent R₁, R₄, R₇, R₈, R₁₁ or R₁₄

and, where required, converting the resulting compound of formula I obtained in free form to a salt form or vice versa, as appropriate.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1 in free form or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) A method for preventing or treating disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.